



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

December 20, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan 

SUBJECT: Accountability Workbook Amendments for 2006-07

When NCLB was passed, states were required to submit a consolidated state plan for the implementation of NCLB's accountability requirements. This plan is called the Accountability Workbook and the plans in the workbook require approval by the U. S. Department of Education (USDOE). The USDOE offers states an opportunity annually to request approval for improvements or changes in the workbook.

Six issues have been identified as proposed amendments this year in our workbook. Amendments to the Michigan Accountability Workbook must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by February 15, 2007.

Accountability Workbook Amendment Descriptions

1. New school definition – USDOE has asked all states to specify in their workbooks how they define a “new school” for the purpose of allowing a school to return to phase 0 for adequate yearly progress (AYP).
2. Graduation cohorts more than four years – With the recognition that time is the variable for some students to achieve the more rigorous graduation requirements, we are specifying the circumstances under which MDE will consider the “standard number of years for graduation” to be more than four years.
3. Seeking approval to use in the calculation of AYP the “best score” through grade 12 for high school students that re-take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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4. Identification of a school or school district for improvement – If a school is making AYP in the category of all students taken together, but is missing AYP in a subgroup or subgroups, we are seeking approval to identify that school or district for improvement only if the school or district does not make AYP for the same content area in the same subgroup for two consecutive years.

5. Request continuation of proxy calculation, up to 2%, for students with mild to moderate cognitive impairment since final regulations have not yet been published.

6. Formerly Limited English Proficient (FLEP) Students and AYP – Allow schools and school districts to include FLEP students in the LEP subgroup for AYP calculation for up to two years. In addition, allow schools and school districts to expand to the students' first two years of school in the U.S. the flexibility for English language learners (ELL) currently allowed in the students' first year of school in the U.S.

These amendment descriptions are presented for your consideration and discussion. The final draft of the amendments will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February State Board of Education meeting.